THE TUSCARORA TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA TRIBUTE TO
WALLACE MAD BEAR ANDERSON, TUSCARORA CITIZEN: 1927-1985

TUSCARORA TRIBE OF N.C.

Native America Non-Profit Organization

Tuscarora Tribe Pays Tribute To Wallace Mad Bear Anderson

The Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina would like to pay tribute to a great Tuscarora activist, Wallace Mad Bear Anderson. Mad Bear was born on the Tuscarora Reservation in New York in 1927. He grew to be 300 pounds. He was very dedicated to his people as well as the Indian cause. In the 50's Mad Bear used the tactics of the sitdown in protest before most people knew what it was. He was always there when there were wrong doings against native people. Because of his leadership and support of Indian causes he was harassed by the U.S. Government, the press, and suffered assaults on his person. However, he seemed to grow in stature.

Mad Bear came to Robeson County first in 1945. He came because his grandmother told him that his people were here also in Robeson County and that they were the Tuscaroras that hid out and stayed behind in North Carolina while the others went to New York and Canada. While Mad Bear visited Robeson County in 1945 he came across a Locklear man he said still spoke the Tuscarora language fluently. Mad Bear went back to New York satisfied that these were his people in Robeson County. Mad Bear also came back several times during the 70's and worked with the Tuscarora people here, teaching them about their past and helping to sign people up on the Tuscarora tribal rolls. He also told the people here about terrible things that were done to them after the Tuscarora War of 1711-1713 which gave them the reason to deny their Tuscarora blood and heritage.

Mad Bear was a great person and leader not only to all Indian people but especially to the Tuscaroras of Robeson County.

Mad Bear died in December of 1985. This is a great loss. But you will never be forgotten by those lives you touched here in Robeson County.

Wallace Mad Bear Anderson
1927-1985

[1] Source: The Carolina Indian voice. [Pembroke, N.C.], March 12, 1987. Edition: 1. Page 8. North Carolina Newspapers, North Carolina State Archives: https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn83008090/1987-03-12/ed-1/seq-8/